

History 505

The Atlantic Slave Trade

The Atlantic slave trade evolved over four hundred years bringing together previously disconnected regions of the world and dramatically shaping the history of societies living on both sides of the ocean. Who were the main players in this trade? How many Africans were transported? What happened to them after their disembarkation? What were the impacts of the traffic? These are just some of the questions that have troubled the minds of historians over the last few decades. The present course invites students to examine the history of the trade since the debates leading to the creation of *Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* (slavevoyages.org). It will introduce them to this electronic resource, discuss how historians have viewed the history of the traffic, and offer opportunities to rethink this important historical event from different points of view. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to explore this important event using some of the most sophisticated resources available to scholars and will have mastered key-concepts, methods, and references to address academic and popular questions about the largest coerced migration in history.

Instructor	Dr. Daniel Domingues		
Contact	Humanities 304, dd41@rice.edu	Classroom	Humanities 315
Office hours	TBD or by appointment	Class time	Mon, 13:00 to 15:30

Course Outline

Jan 08 INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEW

Jan 15 ***MLK RECESS***

Jan 22 BEFORE THE NUMBERS GAME

Choose one of the following:

- Davidson, Basil. *Black Mother: The Years of the African Slave Trade*. Boston: Little Brown, 1961.
- Dow, George Francis. *Slave Ships and Slaving*. Salem: Marine Research Society, 1927.
- Mannix, Daniel Pratt, and Malcolm Cowley. *Black Cargoes: A History of the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1518-1865*. New York: Viking Press, 1962.
- Williams, Eric. *Capitalism & Slavery*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1944.

Jan 29 MEASURING THE BEAST

Read all of the following:

- Curtin, Philip D. *The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969.
- Henige, David. "Measuring the Immeasurable: The Atlantic Slave Trade, West African Population and the Pyrrhonian Critic." *Journal of African History* 27, no. 2 (1986): 295–313.
- Lovejoy, Paul E. "The Volume of the Atlantic Slave Trade: A Synthesis." *Journal of African History* 23, no. 4 (1982): 473–502.

Feb 05 THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Read all of the following:

- Eltis, David. "The Volume and Structure of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Reassessment." *William and Mary Quarterly* 58, no. 1 (2001): 17–46.
- ———. "Understanding the Database." *Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database*, 2008. <http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/understanding-db>.
- Eltis, David, and David Richardson. "A New Assessment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." In *Extending the Frontiers: Essays on the New Transatlantic Slave Trade Database*, edited by David Eltis and David Richardson, 1–60. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.
- Eltis, David, David Richardson, Herbert S. Klein, and Stephen D. Behrendt. *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Feb 12 THE RISE OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Choose one of the following:

- Blackburn, Robin. *The Making of New World Slavery: From the Baroque to the Modern, 1492-1800*. London: Verso, 1997.
- Eltis, David. *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Green, Toby. *The Rise of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in Western Africa, 1300-1589*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Menard, Russell R. *Sweet Negotiations: Sugar, Slavery, and Plantation Agriculture in Early Barbados*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006.

Feb 19 AFRICAN SLAVERY AND THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Choose one of the following:

- Candido, Mariana P. *An African Slaving Port and the Atlantic World: Benguela and Its Hinterland*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Hawthorne, Walter. *Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves: Transformations along the Guinea-Bissau Coast, 1400-1900*. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 2003.
- Mann, Kristin. *Slavery and the Birth of an African City: Lagos, 1760-1900*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.
- Stilwell, Sean. *Slavery and Slaving in African History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Feb 26 THE COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE TRADE

Choose one of the following:

- Harms, Robert W. *The Diligent: A Voyage through the Worlds of the Slave Trade*. New York: Basic Books, 2002.
- Inikori, J. E. *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Nwokeji, G. Ugo. *The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra: An African Society in the Atlantic World*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Sparks, Randy J. *Where the Negroes Are Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014.

Mar 05 THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE OF THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Choose one of the following:

- Mustakeem, Sowande' M. *Slavery at Sea: Terror, Sex, and Sickness in the Middle Passage*. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2016.
- Rediker, Marcus. *The Slave Ship: A Human History*. New York: Penguin Books, 2007.
- Smallwood, Stephanie E. *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Taylor, Eric Robert. *If We Must Die: Shipboard Insurrections in the Era of the Atlantic Slave Trade*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006.

Mar 12 ***SPRING BREAK***

Mar 19 AFRICANS AND THE MAKING OF THE NEW WORLD

Choose one of the following:

- Borucki, Alex. *From Shipmates to Soldiers: Emerging Black Identities in the Río de La Plata*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2015.
- Heywood, Linda M., and John K. Thornton. *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the Foundation of the Americas, 1585-1660*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Sweet, James H. *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the African-Portuguese World, 1441-1770*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Wheat, David. *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

Mar 26 IMPACTS OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Choose one of the following:

- Akyeampong, Emmanuel K., Robert H. Bates, Nathan Nunn, and James A. Robinson, eds. *Africa's Development in Historical Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Manning, Patrick. *The African Diaspora: A History through Culture*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

- Rodney, Walter. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Washington D.C.: Howard University Press, 1982.
- Solow, Barbara L. *Slavery and the Rise of the Atlantic System*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Apr 02 MOVIES, NOVELS, AND PERSONAL JOURNEYS

Choose one of the following:

- Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Slaves on Screen: Film and Historical Vision*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000.
- DeWolf, Thomas Norman. *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008.
- Gyasi, Yaa. *Homegoing*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.
- Hartman, Saidiya V. *Lose Your Mother: A Journey along the Atlantic Slave Route*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

Apr 09 COMPARISONS TO MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Choose one of the following:

- Bales, Kevin. *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.
- Kara, Siddharth. *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.
- Lawrance, Benjamin N. and Richard L. Roberts, eds. *Trafficking in Slavery's Wake: Law and the Experience of Women and Children*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2012.
- Scarpa, Silvia. *Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Apr 16 REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE

Read all of the following:

- Araújo, Ana Lúcia. *Reparations for Slavery and the Slave Trade: A Transnational and Comparative History*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*, June 2014. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>.
- Iweala, Uzodinma. "Reparations as Philanthropy: Radically Rethinking 'Giving' in Africa." *Le Monde*. November 10, 2017. http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/11/10/reparations-as-philanthropy-radically-rethinking-giving-in-africa_5213130_3212.html.

Course Organization

This course is organized in the form of a seminar. Students and the instructor will meet once a week. Time in class will be dedicated to lecture and, especially, discussion. The instructor reserves the right to intervene in the outline whenever he thinks appropriate, including to change readings and to add materials. The readings are available on the Library Reserves and on the course's Canvas page. Students are encouraged to read them before coming to class. Participation in class

is crucial for a successful learning experience. Consequently, students will be expected to engage in class discussions and voice their opinions based on the readings and other materials assigned.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is required from every student. Students are allowed up to two unexcused absences. If a student misses class for a third time without a formal excuse, he or she will be automatically withdrawn from this course. Students are responsible for obtaining notes and announcements made in the classes they missed. Long periods of absence due to illness must be explained either by: 1) a signed letter from the doctor (not an appointment card, bill, receipt, or prescription) with the dates the student remained ill, or 2) a letter from the Dean of the Students.

Assignments and Grades

During the course, students will be required to submit three short, reaction papers and a final, research paper. All papers are due in MS Word format (.doc or .docx) through Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on the days assigned below:

Feb 09 First short paper
Mar 02 Second short paper

Apr 02 Third short paper
May 07 Final paper

Each assignment will be graded on a 100-point scale. Short papers will be weighed 30% of the total grade, while the long paper another 40%. Participation in class will make up the remaining 30% of the total grade. Grades for all assignments will be based on the quality of the argument, coherence, and originality, in addition to students' knowledge of the material and issues discussed in class. Papers should be delivered in proper academic writing. Sloppy writing includes but is not limited to poor organization, distracting grammar, and/or spelling errors. If present, these issues will result in a grade reduction. Late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after 3 days, unless prior arrangements have been made for an extension. Students are strongly advised to deliver their papers on time. Students can also access their grades on Canvas. Should any doubts arise about their grades, students may contact the instructor, but revisions will be made only with the originals attached.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to convert numeric scores into letter grades and vice-versa. If an assignment is missing, the score for that specific work will be graded zero. Further information on grade and the grading system is available under the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the university's General Announcements.

Grade	Scores	Grade Points
A+	97.00 to 100.00	4.33
A	93.00 to 96.99	4.00
A-	90.00 to 92.99	3.66
B+	87.00 to 89.99	3.33
B	83.00 to 86.99	3.00
B-	80.00 to 82.99	2.66
C+	77.00 to 79.99	2.33
C	73.00 to 76.99	2.00

C-	70.00 to 72.99	1.66
D+	67.00 to 69.99	1.33
D	63.00 to 66.99	1.00
D-	60.00 to 62.99	0.66
F	0.00 to 59.99	0.00

Academic Conduct

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook, which outlines the university's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

Audio and Video Recording

Students may not make audio or video recordings of class activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with the law.

Students with Disabilities

Students who need disability-related accommodations to attend this course or who have emergency medical information to share should notify the instructor as soon as possible and register with the Disability Support Services at dss.rice.edu/.

Emergency Plan

In the event of an emergency, the university's emergency management plan will take priority over the timeline of this syllabus. Detailed information about emergency preparedness is available at emergency.rice.edu/.